

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 29 of the Second Extraordinary Session  
By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor Curly Putman for his outstanding  
contributions to country music.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should specially recognize those persons, who, through their unique talent, enrich our lives and stir our emotions through the gift of song; and

WHEREAS, Curly Putman is one such person whose enormous talents as a songwriter have made an indelible mark upon the country music world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Putman was born November 20, 1930, in Princeton, Alabama, on a mountain named for his family. He was a member of a musically inclined family and, while young, learned to sing and to play several of the instruments around his family's home; and

WHEREAS, Curly's early influences included listening to the Grand Old Opry, a musical baptism that influenced his life's work. As he grew older he learned to play the steel guitar, which became his favorite instrument; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Paintrock Valley High School, Curly Putman attended Southern Union Junior College, where he displayed his considerable skills on the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, Curly joined the Navy in 1951 and was assigned to the aircraft carrier, *Valley Forge*, in Bremerton, Washington prior to his discharge in 1954; and

WHEREAS, after his Navy service, Mr. Putman returned to the life of playing clubs with his steel guitar. After marrying the love of his life, Bernice Wilson, on November 30, 1955, and starting his family, he supplemented his music earnings with a "day job," including work as a shoe salesman; and

WHEREAS, Curly Putman is the proud father of Troy and Greg, and the equally proud grandfather of Sean, Ian, and Gina; and

WHEREAS, his first major recording after signing on with the Tree Publishing Company, "Green, Green Grass of Home," has been recorded by over 600 artists in every major language of the world. The most successful version, recorded by Tom Jones, sold between 10 and 12 million copies worldwide; and

WHEREAS, that early success was followed by "He Stopped Loving Her Today," named twice as "Song of the Year" by the Country Music Association. Curly has earned 36 BMI Awards for other songs like "My Elusive Dreams," "D-I-V-O-R-C-E," "It Don't Feel Like Sinnin' To Me" and "It's A Cheatin' Situation"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Putman has been selected as a member of the Nashville Songwriters Association International Songwriter Hall of Fame as well as the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, and as a testament to his commitment to the good people of Princeton, they honored Curly by naming a ball field in his honor; and

WHEREAS, a listing of his most significant work as recorded by particular artists includes "Baby I'll Be Coming Back for More," by T.G. Sheppard; "Blood Red and Going Down," by Tanya Tucker; "D-I-V-O-R-C-E," by Tammy Wynette; "Do You Want To Go To Heaven," by T. G. Sheppard; "He Stopped Loving Her Today," by George Jones; "My Elusive Dreams," by David Houston and Tammy Wynette; "War Is Hell On The Homefront Too," by T. G. Sheppard; "I Meant Every Word He Said," by Ricky Van Shelton; "I Wish That I Could Hurt That Way," by T. Graham Brown; "It Don't Feel Like Sinnin' To Me," by the Kendalls; "It's A Cheating Situation," by Moe Bandy; "My Elusive Dreams" by Charlie Rich; "Green, Green Grass of

Home," by Porter Waggoner, "Just For You," by Ferlin Husky; "When Can We Do This Again," by T. G. Sheppard; "Made For Loving You," by Doug Stone, " Smooth Sailing," by T. G. Sheppard; "Baby You're Something" by John Conlee; "I Think I Know," by Marion Worth; "My Elusive Dreams" by Bobby Vinton; "Older The Violin The Sweeter The Music," by Hank Thompson; "Let's Keep It That Way," by Mac Davis; "Little Black Book," by Jimmy Dean; "Whisper" by Lacy J. Dalton; "You Can't Have Your Kate and Edith Too" by the Statler Brothers; "Thank God She's Mine" by Freddie Hart; "Easy Look," by Charlie Rich; "Green, Green Grass of Home" by Tom Jones; "Hopelessly Yours" by Lee Greenwood and Suzi Bogguss; "What I Had With You," by John Conlee; "Ballad of Two Brothers," by Autry Inman; "Our House Is Not A Home" by Lynn Anderson; "If You Think I Love You Now (I've Just Started)," by Jody Miller; "Legend and the Man," by Conway Twitty; "High and Dry," by Joe Sun; "When You're Hot You're Hot," by Porter Waggoner; "Right Back Loving You Again," by Del Reeves; "Dumb Blond," by Dolly Parton; "Ballad Of A Hillbilly Singer," by Freddy Weller; "I Promised You The World," by Ferlin Husky; "I Turn To You," by George Jones, "The Bird," by George Jones; "In Another Minute," by Jim Glaser; "Unbelievable Love," by Jim Ed Brown; "Green, Green Grass of Home," by Skitch Henderson; "As Long As The Winds Blow," by Johnny Darrell; "While I Was Making Love To You," by Susie Allanson; "Pleasure's All Mine," by Dave and Sugar; "Smooth Sailing," by Jim Weatherly; "Three Six Packs Two Arms And A Jukebox," by Johnny Sea; "Prison Song," by Curly Putman; "Private," by Del Reeves; "Make Mine Night Time," by Bill Anderson; "That See Me Later Look," by Bonnie Guitar; "Let's Keep It That Way," by Juice Newton; and "You Always Look Your Best," by George Jones; and

WHEREAS, all the recordings listed ranked on the Pop, Country, Rhythm and Blues and Adult Contemporary charts of Billboard Magazine from 1961-91; the first twenty-five included seven number 1's, three number 2's, two number 3's, two number 4's, one number 5, two number 6's, three number 7's, one number 8 and four number 10's; and

WHEREAS, Curly Putman is driven by an urge to do more than he has already done, but at the same time to do something worthwhile and retain his sanity while pursuing his goals; and

WHEREAS, Curly is known for his warm and friendly demeanor, as one who always tries to treat people fairly; his outgoing manner, humility and personal charisma is characteristic of the great stars of the country music business; and

WHEREAS, despite his enormous success, Curly Putman is always seeking new worlds to conquer, new mountains to climb and his continuing "Elusive Dreams" as he gives the world more and more beautiful songs to remember him by; and

WHEREAS, such a "master songwriter" is truly a national treasure and a living legend; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Mr. Curly Putman for his unparalleled talent as a songwriter, congratulate him on his many honors and accolades, and thank him for his singular gift to all of us in capturing our feelings in memorable lyrics to scores of great songs that are a part of all of our lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.